



August 31st, 2025 9:30 a.m.
God in Extraordinary Times

Prelude

Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts
Lighting the Christ Candle

Jan Steven

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing aloud to God who is our strength!

People: Raise a shout of joy to the God of all generations!

Leader: For our God provides the materials we need.

**People: When we follow God's requirements,
all will be satisfied.**

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God,

**All: For God has done great things for us,
and so we bring God praise.**

Prayer

Hymn *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

HWB #37

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Hymn *O God beyond All Praising*

VT #814

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today,
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end.
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord. (2x)

Prayers of the People

Jan Steven

Hymn *Lord, whose love in humble service*

HWB #369

Scripture Reading Hebrews 13:1-8,15,16 (NT p. 227)

Grace Singers *There's a Wild Hope in the Wind* VT #828

Scripture Reading Luke 14:1,7-14 (NT p.77) Chloe, Olivia Daniel

Meditation

"Hospitality to God"

Doug Schulz

Hymn of Response *Will you let me be your servant* HWB #307

Benediction Doug Schulz

Sending Hymn *Between Darkness and Light* VT #808

*Between darkness and light I will always walk;
and wherever I will go, I will open a window of light,
and will plant the seeds of love.*

I will open a window of light, and will plant the seeds of love. (2x)

Postlude

*It is good to be together in worship this morning!
The ushers are pleased to help any who need assistance.*

[Offering plate is available on table at back of sanctuary]

Today, 4:00 p.m. Grace Church Social
at Doug & Ester's Farm (3017 8th Avenue, Jordan)
Watermelon and Rollkuchen, etc. Bring your own lawn chair.

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, August 24th ~ Attendance – 39

Sunday, September 7th ~ Speaker: Darrell Winger
Scripture Readings: **Jeremiah 18:1-11**; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
Philemon 1-21; **Luke 14:25-33**

September 3rd, 10:30 a.m. ~ Worship Committee

Women's Chorus September 11th and 25th at 9:30 a.m.
New singers are welcome to come to our Women's Chorus
practices on Thursday mornings every other week.

Coffee Times ~ September 14th and 28th

**Walking with Grace: New Testament Wisdom for the Journey -
A 12-Week Bible Study at the Grace Linwell Apts!**

First meeting – Wednesday, September 3, 1 to 2 pm in The Lounge.
BYOB! Bring Your Own Beverage and Bible! I'll Provide Some
Cookies!

Week 1: A Life of Purpose; Scripture: Matthew 5:13–16
Theme: Embracing your ongoing role in God's work.

Reflection:

- *How have you been "salt and light" to others recently?*
- *What does it mean to still have a purpose in later life?*

Study Coordinator – Jan Steven, Community Chaplain

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



MCC's Work in Iraq ~ Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has worked in Iraq for more than 30 years. Through partnerships with local organizations, MCC provides relief, supports livelihoods, strengthens food security, and promotes peace.

Key Areas of Work:

- Humanitarian Relief – Food and hygiene supplies for displaced families.
- Livelihood Support – Poultry farming, training, and repairs to water systems.
- Food Security – Income-generating projects to strengthen rural communities.
- Peacebuilding – Promoting interfaith dialogue and supporting civil society organizations.

To support the work of MCC in Iraq, through your giving, mark your offering envelope “MCC Iraq” or e-transfer and write “MCC Iraq” in the message box. Thank you for your gifts.

MCC: Relief, development, and peace – in the Name of Christ.

<https://mcc.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/iraq>

Start Me Up Niagara (SMUN) – Building a society where all people are included, healthy, and self-sufficient.

The Start Me Up Niagara (SMUN) resource centre is open 5 days a week and provides wrap around services for individuals facing significant life challenges—including poverty, barriers to employment, compromised mental health, substance misuse, precarious housing and food insecurity.

You can support SMUN by donating needed items.

Clothing & Footwear: New or gently used, seasonally appropriate items, including trackpants and hoodies, are needed year-round.

Personal Hygiene Items: Full-size or travel-size items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sunscreen, and bug spray are requested.

Bicycles: Plus you can use their Bike Me Up Service for repairs and maintenance.

Financial Support: Monetary donations are crucial for the organization's operations and frontline services.

Your Time: There is a volunteer job for everyone! 😊

The Grace Justice Group hopes to have a seminar – a Compassion Café – in October to learn more about **Start Me Up Niagara (SMUN)** services, including the ones that benefit us older folks! For more information call (905) 984-5310 or visit <https://www.startmeupniagara.ca/>



MEDA Niagara Network Hub Event ~

Bee the Change: A Morning with MEDA in East Africa

Wednesday, September 10 at 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Buffet breakfast provided by Grand Oak Culinary Market, followed by an inspiring presentation from Katelynn Folkerts, MEDA's Compliance & Program Quality Lead for East & Southern Africa. Register at www.meda.org/events

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.
For ever and ever. Amen.

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Office Hours: 8:30-2:30 ~ Wednesday, Thursday

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Fall 2025 Sunday Bible Study Group Opportunities

Study Group #1 – Laur Steven and John Rempel facilitators

A vital part of congregational life is ongoing conversation concerning issues that matter in being faithful Christians. An important expression of that conversation is Adult Sunday School. We are eager to gather people of different ages and concerns to grapple with issues together. Here is our proposed schedule for the fall. We will meet on Sundays when there is not a coffee hour.

September 7

A group chat inviting suggestions for topics that engage or perplex class members. We will take the themes that arise for study beginning on Nov 2 so we have time to prepare for them. On the Sundays before that we will have a three-week study with resources from the Kairos Apartheid Study. It focuses on concrete commitments to help Christians act justly.

September 21, October 5, 19

Kairos Apartheid study using PowerPoint Slides

November 2, 16, 30, December 14

Study topics we will have agreed on September 7

One option is to follow the preaching theme "Shaped by the Spirit" for each of these weeks and build on them.

Study Group #2 – Kevin McCabe facilitator

"Practical Christianity" starting Sunday, September 28th and meeting on the same Sundays as coffee time and running from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants will be free to pick up coffee and snacks and bring them along. Late-comers will be welcome.

This study intends to take a less theological and less textual analysis approach, except where the text itself suggests it. So, the first part of the study will be looking at one chapter of Titus, 1st Timothy and 2nd Timothy per study (and in that order of readings). The second part will be making applications of the text. There seems to be an element of urgency and even impatience in the Pastoral Epistles which reflects both problems in the churches and the threat of persecution. Titus and Timothy are instructed to pick up the torch and pass it on.

Shaped by the Spirit

This fall we are exploring what it means to be “shaped by the Spirit”. In John 14, Jesus promised his followers that he would send his Spirit to teach and guide them in the way of truth and life. The Apostle Paul picks up on this teaching in his writing to the church at Corinth: “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate (or reflect) the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Spirit.” It is encouraging to know that God, by his Spirit, is shaping us so that we increasingly reflect the life of Christ. But how are we shaped by the Spirit?

We want to consider some of the ways we are shaped by the Spirit at Grace:

- Shaped by Scripture, liturgy, music, preaching, and praying as we gather each Sunday
- Shaped by being in community together – listening to and learning from each other as we discern the way of Christ (even when we don’t all agree!)
- Shaped as we actively respond to the needs of others locally and globally
- Shaped as we pursue ways of furthering peace and justice in our world
- Shaped as we serve using our gifts, abilities, and resources
- Shaped as we care well for the environment and all of creation
- Shaped as we keep our eyes open to God’s presence in the “ordinary” all around us
- Shaped as we endeavour to be a safe and welcoming place for all

There are many ways the Spirit desires to shape us into the image of Christ if we are open. May we listen to and learn from each other this coming fall as we follow the guidance of the Spirit of Jesus.